

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A printing cylinder for accepting an axially-removable printing sleeve comprising:

a cylinder body having an outer surface, the outer surface having at least one hole; and

a supply line in the cylinder body for supplying fluid to the at least one hole, the supply line having at least one flow restrictor altering fluid flow as a function of the at least one hole being covered by an axially-removable printing sleeve, the flow restrictor providing a first even fluid flow when the at least one hole is covered and a second different blocked air flow when the hole is uncovered.

Claim 2 (original): The printing cylinder as recited in claim 1 wherein the fluid is air.

Claim 3 (original): The printing cylinder as recited in claim 1 wherein the flow restrictor creates vortices when the at least one hole is uncovered.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The printing cylinder as recited in claim 1 wherein the cylinder body has a work side end and a gear side end, the outer surface having a plurality of other holes located axially between the at least one hole and the work side end.

Claim 5 (original): The printing cylinder as recited in claim 4 wherein the plurality of other holes include another supply line having at least one other flow restrictor for the other holes.

Claim 6 (original): The printing cylinder as recited in claim 1 wherein the flow restrictor includes a plurality of opposing fins, tips of opposing fins being spaced so as to form a free-flow channel.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The printing cylinder as recited in claim 1 wherein the cylinder body has a work side end and a gear side end, the at least one hole being spaced closer to the gear side end than the work side end.

Claim 8 (original): The printing cylinder as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one hole includes a plurality of holes and the at least one flow restrictor includes a flow restrictor for each hole.

Claim 9 (original): The printing cylinder as recited in claim 8 wherein the outer surface has a second set of holes for a second axially-removable printing sleeve, the second set of holes having second flow restrictors.

Claim 10 (original): The printing cylinder as recited in claim 1 wherein the printing cylinder is a blanket cylinder.

Claim 11 (original): A printing press comprising:

- a first printing cylinder having at least one external hole and a first flow restrictor;
- a first axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the first printing cylinder;
- an additional printing cylinder having at least one second external hole and a second flow restrictor;
- an additional axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the additional printing cylinder;
- and
- a fluid supply source for supplying pressure to the first and second external holes;
- the first flow restrictor restricting flow through the external hole as a function of an axial position of the first printing sleeve with respect to the first printing cylinder and the second flow restrictor restricting flow through the second external hole as a function of an other axial position of the additional printing sleeve with respect to the additional printing cylinder.

Claim 12 (original): The printing press as recited in claim 11 wherein no valves are located between the first and second external holes.

Claim 13 (original): The printing press as recited in claim 11 wherein the first printing cylinder is a blanket cylinder.

Claim 14 (original): The printing press as recited in claim 11 wherein the printing press is an offset lithographic printing press.

Claim 15 (original): A printing press comprising:

- a printing cylinder having an outer surface with at least one first external hole with a first flow restrictor, and at least one second external hole with a second flow restrictor,

- a first axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the printing cylinder so as to cover the at least one first external hole; and

- a second axially removable printing sleeve fitting over the printing cylinder so as to cover the at least one second external hole.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A method for axially removing a printing sleeve over a printing cylinder, the printing cylinder having a work side end and a gear side end and having holes at a work side end and having other holes between the holes at the work side end and the gear side end comprising the steps of:

- applying fluid pressure to an inside of a printing sleeve located on a printing cylinder through the holes and through the other holes;

- sliding the printing sleeve in a direction of the work side end of the printing cylinder; and

- automatically restricting flow through the other holes when the printing sleeve no longer is located over the other holes.

Claim 17 (original): The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the automatically restricting step includes forming vortices in a supply line for the other holes.

Claim 18 (original): The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the printing sleeve is a blanket.

Claim 19 (original): The method as recited in claim 16 further comprising sliding an additional printing sleeve in the direction of the work side end.

Claim 20 (new): A printing cylinder for accepting an axially-removable printing sleeve comprising:

- a cylinder body having an outer surface, the outer surface having at least one hole; and
- a supply line in the cylinder body for supplying fluid to the at least one hole, the supply line having at least one flow restrictor altering fluid flow as a function of the at least one hole being covered by an axially-removable printing sleeve,
- wherein the flow restrictor includes a plurality of opposing fins, tips of opposing fins being spaced so as to form a free-flow channel.